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Senate Republicans take first steps to change rules to speed up Trump's nominees

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans took the first steps to change the chamber's rules on Thursday, moving to make it easier to confirm groups of President Donald Trump's nominees after last-minute negotiations with Democrats fell apart.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune's move is the latest salvo after a dozen years of gradual changes by both parties to weaken the filibuster and make the nominations process more partisan. He has said the Democrats' obstruction is "unsustainable" as they have drawn out the confirmation process and infuriated Trump as many positions in his administration have remained unfilled.

The Senate on Thursday evening moved forward on the proposed rule change with a 45-53 party line vote. The new rules would allow the Senate to move some of Trump's nominees in groups of 48 at a time. Republicans had delayed the votes for almost five hours on Thursday afternoon as a bipartisan group of senators tried to work out a deal that could be beneficial to both parties. But



Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., center, speaks during a news conference after a policy luncheon at the Capitol Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

they cut those talks short amid an impasse as Democrats asked for more time to negotiate.

"How much time is enough?" Thune, R-S.D., angrily asked Democrats as he moved to resume votes. He said that the deal was based on a Democratic proposal when President Joe Biden was in office and that the two parties had already been negotiating for weeks. "We've got to fix

this," Thune said. "It's time to vote."

Having abandoned the bipartisan talks, Republicans advanced their original plan to hold several procedural votes that allow them to change the Senate rules for confirming presidential nominees. As part of the vote series, they will ask to "appeal the chair," or change the rules, which takes a simple majority vote.

Republicans will have to go through additional procedural steps next week for the process to be complete. And if all goes according to their plan, the first tranche of Trump's nominees undersecretaries and staff positions for various agencies across the government as well as several ambassadors could be confirmed as soon as next Thursday.

The rules change effort

comes as both parties have obstructed the other's nominees for years, and as both Republicans and Democrats have advocated speeding the process when they are in the majority. The Republican rules change stops short of speeding up votes on high-level Cabinet officials and lifetime judicial appointments.

Republicans have been pushing the rules change since early August, when the Senate left for a month-long recess after a breakdown in bipartisan negotiations over the confirmation process and Trump told Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer to "GO TO HELL!" on social media.

Democrats have blocked more nominees than ever before as they have struggled to find ways to oppose Trump and the GOP-dominated Congress, and as their voters have pushed them to fight Republicans at every turn. It's the first time in recent history that the minority party hasn't allowed at least some quick confirmations.

Schumer has said Democrats are delaying the nominations because Trump's nominees are "historically bad." □

Trump administration takes first steps to restore Harvard's funding, but money isn't flowing yet

By **COLLIN BINKLEY**
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Har-

vard University says it has started receiving notices that many federal grants

halted by the Trump administration will be reinstated after a federal judge ruled that the cuts were illegal. It's an early signal that federal research funding could begin flowing to Harvard after months of deadlock with the White House, but it's yet to be seen if money will arrive. The government has said it will appeal the judge's decision.

Reinstatement notices have started arriving from several federal agencies, but so far no payments have been received, Harvard spokesperson Jason Newton said late Wednesday. "Harvard is monitor-

ing funding receipts closely," Newton said.

A federal judge in Boston last week ordered the government to reverse more than \$2.6 billion in cuts, saying they were unconstitutional and "used antisemitism as a smoke-screen" for an ideological attack.

The Trump administration started cutting federal research grants from Harvard in April after the Ivy League school rebuffed a list of wide-ranging demands from the government in a federal investigation into campus antisemitism. Harvard challenged the cuts in court, calling

them illegal government retaliation.

Harvard has been President Donald Trump's top target in his campaign to reshape higher education, which has resulted in settlements with Columbia and Brown universities to end federal investigations and restore federal money cut by the Trump administration. Trump has said he wants Harvard to pay no less than \$500 million as part any deal to restore funding. He reiterated the demand at an August Cabinet meeting. "They've been very bad," Trump told Education Secretary Linda McMahon. □



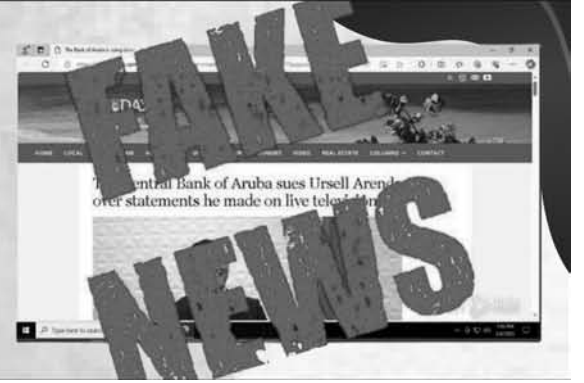
People take photos near a John Harvard statue, left, on the Harvard University campus, Jan. 2, 2024, in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press

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Americans mark the 24th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks with emotional ceremonies

By PHILIP MARCELO and
LISEBERTH GUILLAUME

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Nearly a quarter century has passed since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, but for many, the emotions of the day remain raw as ever.

On Thursday, America marked the 24th anniversary of the deadly attacks with solemn ceremonies in New York, at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The commemorations were punctuated by moments of silence, the tolling of bells and the reading of the names of the nearly 3,000 killed.

"Even 24 years later, it's heart-wrenching," said Jennifer Nilsen, who wore a T-shirt emblazoned with an image of her husband, Troy Nilsen, as she attended the commemoration at ground zero in lower Manhattan. "It feels the same way every year."

Michelle Pizzo, wearing a shirt with the image of her late husband, Jason DeFazio, said she hoped more people could take a minute to reflect on the day.

"Younger kids don't realize that you have to remember," she said.

Emma Williamson, 20, of Massachusetts, made a point to travel from her college uptown to stand near ground zero, where two memorial pools ringed by waterfalls and parapets inscribed with the names of the dead mark the spots where the twin towers once stood.

"I wasn't born when it happened, but it was really an important day in America," she said. "It's kind of the last time we all stuck together, and that matters."

The reading of names and



Mary Beth Delarm looks over the the names on the the 9/11 Memorial during a ceremony to mark the 24th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025, in New York. (

Associated Press

moments of silence

The 9/11 anniversary, often promoted as a day of national unity, came during a time of increased politician tension.

The assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk at a Utah college a day earlier prompted additional security measures at ground zero, where FBI Director Kash Patel was among the dignitaries in attendance.

Vice President JD Vance and his wife, second lady Usha Vance, had planned to attend but instead are set to visit with Kirk's family on Thursday in Salt Lake City, according to a person familiar with Vance's plans, but not authorized to speak about them publicly.

Many in the crowd at ground zero held up photos of lost loved ones as a moment of silence marked the exact time when the first hijacked plane struck the iconic twin towers.

Loved ones then read aloud the names of the victims, with many giving personal remembrances, well wishes and updates on their lives.

Zoe Doyle, daughter of Frank Joseph Doyle, said her family created a non-profit in his honor that's built schools in South Africa and is feeding and educating thousands of children.

Manuel DaMota Jr. said he remembers his father and namesake, Manuel DaMota, not just with grief, but with gratitude for the example he set.

"In a world filled with division and conflict, I do my best to honor my father by choosing connection, empathy and hope," he said. Melissa Pullis, whose husband Edward Pullis died in the towers, said this year is more difficult than others because two of the couple's three children are getting married.

"You can't walk your prin-

cess down the aisle," she said through tears. "You are missed every day. We will always say your name, and we will always fight for justice."

Ceremonies in Virginia and Pennsylvania honor victims At the Pentagon in Virginia, the 184 service members and civilians killed when hijackers steered a jetliner into the headquarters of the U.S. military were honored in a ceremony attended by President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump.

The president, in his remarks, recounted moments from that day, including snippets of conversations from passengers who were aboard the hijacked airplanes.

"Today, as one nation, we renew our sacred vow that we will never forget Sept. 11, 2001," Trump said during the observance, which took place in an internal courtyard of the building rather than its traditional lo-

cation outside its walls near the building's 9/11 memorial.

"The enemy will always fail," he added. "We defy the fear, endure the flames."

The president, who was expected to attend a New York Yankees game in the Bronx on Thursday evening, also announced Kirk would be posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, calling him a "giant of his generation" and a "champion of liberty."

And in a rural field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, a ceremony attended by Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins honored the victims of Flight 93, the hijacked plane that crashed after crew members and passengers tried to storm the cockpit.

Elsewhere, people marked the anniversary with service projects and charitable works as part of a national day of service. Volunteers took part in food and clothing drives, park and neighborhood cleanups, blood banks and other community events.

Reverberations from attacks persist

In all, the attacks by al-Qaida militants killed 2,977 people, including many financial workers at the World Trade Center and firefighters and police officers who had rushed to the burning buildings trying to save lives.

The attacks reverberated globally, altering the course of U.S. foreign and domestic policy. It led to the "Global War on Terrorism" and the U.S.-led invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and related conflicts that killed hundreds of thousands of civilians and troops. □

Bob Menendez's wife says she was ex-senator's 'puppet' as she gets 4½ years in prison for bribery

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez's sobbing wife told a judge that her husband was "not the man I thought he was" before she was sentenced Thursday to 4½ years in prison for selling the powerful New Jersey politician's influence in exchange for bribes of cash, gold bars and a luxury car.

U.S. District Judge Sidney H. Stein sentenced Nadine Menendez, 58, for her April conviction for colluding from 2018 to 2023 with her husband, the former Democratic chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in a variety of corrupt schemes, some involving assisting the Egyptian government.

Nadine Menendez, tearfully addressing the judge for several minutes before he sentenced her, described her husband as a manipulative liar.

"I put my life in his hands and he strung me like a puppet," she said. "The blindfold is off. I now know he's not my savior. He's not the man I thought he was." Standing outside the courthouse afterward, she said she doesn't plan to divorce her 71-year-old husband, who is serving an 11-year sentence for taking bribes,



Nadine Menendez, left, wife of former U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, accompanied by her lawyer Sarah Krissoff, leaves a Manhattan federal court in New York, Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025.

Associated Press

extortion, and acting as an agent of the Egyptian government.

Stein told the defendant that she wasn't the person she was portrayed as during last year's trial of her husband and two New Jersey businessmen, when the judge said she was painted as "the true force behind the conspiracies."

But he said she also wasn't the "innocent observer of what was happening around you," as her lawyer claimed.

"You knew what you were doing. Your role was pur-

poseful," he said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Lara Pomerantz said Nadine Mendendez was "the second-most culpable member" of the scheme, after her husband, and that she "did so without hesitation." "The defendant was not a bit player" the prosecutor said. "She played a critical role in selling the power of a U.S. senator."

When she spoke, Nadine Menendez partly blamed her husband, saying she was duped by his power and stature and that she felt compelled to do what-

ever he wanted, such as calling or meeting with certain people.

"I would never have imagined someone of his ranking putting me in this position," she said, though she acknowledged that in retrospect, she was a grown woman and should have known better.

Prior to the hearing, Bob Menendez submitted a letter to the judge saying he regretted that he didn't fully preview what his lawyer said about his wife during his trial and in closing arguments.

"To suggest that Nadine was money hungry or in financial need, and therefore would solicit others for help, is simply wrong," he wrote.

In addition to prison time, Stein sentenced Nadine Menendez to three years of supervised release. He said he granted her leniency in part because of the trial she endured, her difficult childhood in Lebanon, her abusive romantic partners, her health conditions and her age.

Stein said a prison term was important for general deterrence purposes: "People have to understand there are consequences."

Nadine Menendez won't have to surrender to prison until next summer. Stein set a reporting date of July 10, accommodating a defense request that she be allowed to remain free to complete necessary medical procedures before she heads behind bars. Federal prosecutors did not object to the request.

Prosecutors had sought a prison sentence of at least seven years.

Her lawyer, Sarah Krissoff, asked that her client serve only a year behind bars, citing longstanding trauma, past abusive relationships, a brain injury and her difficult recovery from breast cancer. □

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp swears in his daughter as a state trooper

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp has been protected by state troopers since he took office in 2019,



Lucy Kemp, the middle daughter of Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, stands at the far left on the third row from the bottom as a member of her graduating class of new Georgia state troopers in Forsyth, Ga., Friday, Sept. 5, 2025.

Associated Press

and now he has a trooper in the family.

Lucy Kemp, the middle of the governor's three daughters, was one of 30 new troopers who joined the ranks of the Georgia State Patrol last week.

The Republican governor was present on Sept. 5 at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth to address the new troopers and administer their oaths of office. Kemp's office didn't respond to further requests for comment Thursday.

Like other cadets, Lucy Kemp completed 22 weeks of academy instruction followed by 12 weeks of field

training. Troopers focus primarily on enforcing traffic laws, investigating crashes and aiding motorists, but take part in other law enforcement work and respond to disasters.

Lucy Kemp has been touched by death on the highway. Her onetime boyfriend, Harrison Deal, died in a four-vehicle crash on Interstate 16 near Savannah in December 2020 while working on the campaign of then-U.S. Sen. Kelly Loeffler. Mario Demaine Clark, a truck driver found at fault in the crash, pleaded guilty in 2024 to second-degree vehicular homicide, a misdemeanor, according to

online court records. Clark was sentenced to a year in jail, but was allowed to serve the remainder of that time on probation after his plea.

Kemp was elected vice president of her class and achieved the highest average grades in academic work among her classmates, according to a statement from the Georgia State Patrol. She was awarded a scholarship for further study at Reinhardt University in Waleska, Georgia.

Like other new troopers, Kemp was assigned to one of the 52 patrol posts statewide. □

Majority of Brazilian Supreme Court panel convicts Bolsonaro of attempting a coup

By MAURICIO SAVARESE
and GABRIELA SÁ PESSOA
Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — The majority of a panel of Brazilian Supreme Court justices on Thursday voted to convict former president Jair Bolsonaro of attempting a coup to remain in office despite his 2022 electoral defeat, in a ruling that will deepen political divisions and likely prompt a backlash from the United States government.

The far-right politician who governed Brazil between 2019 and 2022 was found guilty on five counts by three members of a five-justice panel. The latest to rule was Cármen Lúcia on Thursday, a day after another justice, Luiz Fux, disagreed and voted to acquit the ex-president of all charges.

There is only one pending justice to vote.

Once all five justices have voted, the panel will decide on Bolsonaro's sentence, which could amount to decades in prison. The 70-year-old former president is currently under house arrest.

His lawyers have said that they will appeal the verdict to the full Supreme Court of 11 justices.



Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro stands at the entrance of his home where he is under house arrest in Brasilia, Brazil, Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025.

Bolsonaro, who has denied any wrongdoing, has not attended the court and has sent his lawyers.

The trial has been followed by a divided society, with people backing the process against the former president, while others still support him. Some have taken to the streets to back the far-right leader.

Bolsonaro's trial got renewed attention after U.S. President Donald Trump linked a 50% tariff on imported Brazilian goods to his ally's legal situation, call-

ing it a "witch hunt." Observers say the U.S. might announce new sanctions against Brazil after the trial, further straining their fragile diplomatic relations.

Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who is overseeing the case, said Tuesday that Bolsonaro was the leader of a coup plot and of a criminal organization, and voted in favor of convicting him.

Despite his legal woes, Bolsonaro remains a powerful political player in Brazil.

The far-right politician had

been previously banned from running for office until 2030 in a separate case. He is expected to choose an heir who is likely to challenge President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva next year.

The ruling may push Bolsonaro's allied lawmakers to seek some amnesty for him through Congress.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below.

BRASILIA (AP) Brazil's Supreme Court is to deliver Thursday the final two votes by its justices on for-

mer President Jair Bolsonaro alleged coup attempt votes that could send the far-right politician to prison within weeks and deeply impact the nation's politics. Three out of the five judges have voted so far, with the score 2-1 in favor of a guilty verdict on all five charges for the ally of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Justice Cármen Lúcia will be the first to vote. If she follows as she has in the past the ruling by the main judge in the case, Justice Alexandre de Moraes, she would tip the scales for Bolsonaro's conviction. Justice Cristiano Zanin will be the last to vote.

The 70-year-old Bolsonaro faces accusations he attempted to illegally hang onto power after his 2022 electoral defeat to current President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Prosecutors charged Bolsonaro with a total of five charges. They include attempting to stage a coup, being part of an armed criminal organization, attempted violent abolition of the democratic rule of law, as well as being implicated in violence and posing a serious threat to the state's assets and listed heritage. □

South Africa's top court says banning a husband from taking wife's family name is unconstitutional

By MICHELLE GUMEDE
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa's top court ruled on Thursday that an

apartheid-era law banning husbands from taking their wife's family name or hyphenating both spouses' surnames was unconsti-

tutional.

The ruling by the Constitutional Court, which said the existing law must be amended, paves the way for husbands to adopt their wife's last name if they wish to do so.

The decision was met with mixed reactions and at times heated comments on social media, with some welcoming it as a progressive step for Africa's leading democracy while others slammed it as going against the country's culture and tradition.

The top court gave South African lawmakers and President Cyril Ramaphosa two years to amend the

legislation. The current law known as the Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1992 only allows a woman to change her family name when her marital status changes.

The decision was the outcome of a 2024 case brought by two couples who sued the Department of Home Affairs for gender discrimination. Andreas Nicolaas Bornman and Jess Donnelly-Bornman wanted both to have their family names hyphenated while Henry van der Merwe wanted to take his wife Jana Jordaan's family name.

A lower court ruled last

September that the current law was unconstitutional and amounted to gender discrimination. The Constitutional Court on Thursday upheld that decision, with Justice Loena Theron saying the existing law was unfair and discriminated "based on gender."

Some social media users said the ruling could help preserve rare family names.

Others were less impressed, claiming it would erase traditional customs.

One user said on X that the ruling is intended to "destroy the norms and values" of Black Indigenous Africans. □



A man walks downstairs outside the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg, South Africa, on May 15, 2017.

Associated Press

Philippines protests China's plan for a nature reserve at a hotly disputed shoal

By JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— The Philippines on Thursday protested a plan by China to establish a nature reserve in one of the most hotly disputed shoals in the South China Sea, calling it a “pretext to eventual occupation” and demanding that Beijing immediately withdraw the plan.

China's State Council on Wednesday announced the approval of a plan to create a national nature reserve at the Scarborough Shoal.

The aim is to protect a coral reef, according to the National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

The Scarborough Shoal is one of many South China Sea islands, islets and reefs that are claimed by China and its neighbors, including the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. In the Philippines it is known as the Bajo de Masinloc.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said a diplomatic protest was underway “against this illegitimate and unlawful action by China as it clearly infringes upon the rights and interests of the Philippines in



A Chinese military helicopter flies close to a Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic (BFAR) aircraft above Scarborough shoal on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025.

Associated Press

accordance with international law.”

“The Philippines urges China to respect the sovereignty and jurisdiction of the Philippines over Bajo de Masinloc, refrain from enforcing and immediately withdraw its State Council issuance and comply with its obligations under international law,” the Philippine Foreign Affairs Department said in a statement. Philippine National Security Adviser Eduardo Año said China's plan was “patently illegal,” violating both the

U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea and a 2016 international arbitration ruling that invalidated Beijing's expansive territorial claims on historic grounds. “It is a clear pretext towards eventual occupation,” he said.

Año also accused China of allowing its fishermen for years to carry out large-scale harvesting of endangered species of marine life that caused massive reef destruction more than a decade ago in Scarborough, which he said Beijing

purportedly now wants to save.

The Philippines has publicly declared in the past that any Chinese construction at Scarborough, which Beijing, Manila and Taiwan all claim, would be a red line. China's State Council said in its notice Wednesday that the “establishment of the Huangyan Island National Nature Reserve is an important guarantee for maintaining the diversity, stability and sustainability of the natural ecosystem of Huangyan Island.”

According to the statement, the nature reserve is located in China's southernmost island city of Sansha, Hainan province, and covers an area of 3,523.67 hectares (8,705 acres). In the statement, the administration also attached a map showing the territory staked out for the reserve, roughly the entire north-eastern side of the island. Philippine Ambassador to Washington Jose Romualdez, a vocal critic of China's increasingly assertive actions in the South China Sea, said that although Beijing is depicting its plan as an environmental protection effort, “it's obviously another maneuvering move by China to justify their 10-dash line claim,” referring to China's expansive claims in the strategic waterway, which it demarcates with dashes on its map.

China responded to Philippine criticism Thursday, calling the island its “inherent territory.”

“The establishment of a national-level nature reserve on Huangyan Island falls within China's sovereignty,” said Lin Jian, a spokesperson for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. □

Ebola cases in Congo rise as authorities race to contain spread of outbreak, health agency says

By OPE ADETAYO and RUTH ALONGA

Associated Press

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)

— The number of suspected Ebola cases in Congo's southern Kasai province have more than doubled in a week since a new outbreak was confirmed there, Africa's top public health agency said Thursday.

The suspected cases have increased from 28 to 68 in recent days, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said at an online briefing.

It has also spread from two to four districts while the death toll currently stands at 16.

Local residents expressed concerns on Thursday over

the outbreak, the first in Congo in three years and the province's first in more

than a decade. The Kasai province is a remote part of Congo with



Health workers dressed in protective gear begin their shift at an Ebola treatment center in Beni, Congo DRC, Tuesday, July 16, 2019.

Associated Press

poor road networks and is more than 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) from the nation's capital of Kinshasa. In addition, fighting in eastern Congo could complicate efforts to contain the disease, which can spread rapidly due to the proximity and density of villages and provinces, Dr. Ngashi Ngongo, a principal advisor with Africa CDC, said at the briefing.

“It was two (districts), now it is four,” Ngongo said. The outbreak was announced a week ago after a pregnant woman was confirmed to have been infected in the locality of Bulapé.

The World Health Organization sent experts alongside

Congo's Rapid Response Team to Kasai to strengthen disease surveillance, offer treatment and monitor infection prevention and controls.

The Central African country has a history of Ebola since 1976. The latest outbreak is the 16th in the country and the 7th in the Kasai province. A previous outbreak between 2018 and 2020 in eastern Congo killed more than 1,000 people.

Local authorities in Kasai are trying to contain the outbreak.

Public movements have been curtailed and checkpoints have been set up at the main entrances to Tshikapa, the capital of the province, authorities said. □

Solemn Ceremony: Candle in Honor and Memory of All Who Lost Their Lives



On Thursday, September 11, the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mr. Mike Eman, accompanied by his wife Doina, attended a solemn ceremony at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection area at Queen Beatrix International Airport.

On this date, exactly 24 years ago, one of the greatest tragedies in modern history took place: the terrorist attacks against the Twin Towers in New York, the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and a plane that crashed in Pennsylvania. In total, more than 3,000 people lost their

lives, and many families were forever marked. This event not only shook the United States but also permanently changed security and regulations in global aviation.

During the ceremony, the CBP Director stationed on our island, Mr. Roberts, deliv-

ered a deep and emotional speech to the guests present. Among those in attendance were the Director of the Department of Foreign Relations, Mrs. Jocelyne Croes, the Airport Director Mr. James Fazio, and the CBP personnel. The world must never forget the innocent victims, and by remembering them, we continue to honor their memory.

The solemn moment continued with a prayer led by a CBP officer, an act of reflection and spiritual unity. Prime Minister Eman also gave a speech, expressing gratitude and solidarity with all the affected families and peoples. Prime Minister Eman emphasized that Aruba, despite its small size, is part of a global community that felt the same pain and continues to stand firm against terrorism.

At the end of the ceremony, Prime Minister Eman, together with his wife Doina, lit a candle in honor and memory of all those who lost their lives in the tragedy that changed



the world forever. □

Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and

interesting process.

It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and

even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can

change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □





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Dining in? Try making a local favorite; How to make “funchi hasa”



(Oranjestad)—A night in can be just as fun as a night out on the town, especially if you got the right snacks to munch on. One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is “funchi hasa”

(fried polenta sticks). A super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Before we start, get to know the basics

So what is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is tra-

ditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for a quick and filling snack.

Ingredients
(measured by heart)
Polenta flour*
Water
Butter
Salt to taste



Directions
Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let

this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.

When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce.

Note: We recommend the FUNCHI FRESKU polenta flour brand that is sold in all supermarkets on the island. You can also use yellow corn flour from the brand PAN.□

Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!



(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These “coconut stands” can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and of course, fresh coconuts! Perfect during family outings around the island, these stands can be found in the following locations:

- Near the red Anchor in San Nicolas
- On the Linear Park in Oranjestad (in front of airport runway)
- At the California Light House hill
- Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin
- Bushiribana Beach (Near the Ling & Song Supermarket)

From September 1st till September 27th Win Double at The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba & The Casino at The St. Regis, Aruba on The Weekend With "Weekend Fortunes"!



Palm Beach, Aruba—The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba together with The Casino at St. Regis, Aruba launches a campaign together called Weekend Fortunes!

Starting September 1, 2025, there will be a total of ten thousand dollars in prizes at the end of each week. Every Friday players can participate and win \$5000, - at The Casino of Ritz Carlton, Aruba and every Saturday \$5000, at The Casino of St.Regis, Aruba.

How to participate, very easy! Accumulate 80 points at slot machines or \$40, - theoretical win at each casino and receive a ticket to participate and win double.

Now with 1 card you can play at 2 casinos and get more for your money. For the first time in Aruba 2 casinos are joining together to bring more promotions and benefits to our members. Accumulate points at The Casino at Ritz-Carlton or at The Casino at St. Regis, and exchange your points to stay at one of our hotels, receive food & beverage credit for our restaurants and also at one of our prestigious Spa.

For more information about the Elevate Tier Program and all other promotions for the month of September please visit the Casino VIP Desk at both casinos and we will be delighted to assist you.

Come and visit each casino and experience quality service, and let us elevate each game at The Casino at Ritz Carlton & St. Regis. "Double Luxury Double Win"



Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by

R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.



At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However re-

ligious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father

Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvarez, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □

Unique fauna of Aruba

For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on liz-

ards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing.

The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color.

The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of



the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits

her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. □



Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)— We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS

1 Minimum amount

6 Very serious

11 Winfrey of TV

12 Madrid month

13 Beach setting

14 TV role for Guy Williams

15 Platitude

17 Back muscle, for short

18 How- (handy books)

19 Pillbox pokers

22 Low digit

23 Under control

24 Plague

25 Verbose

27 Cal. pages

30 Before

31 Singer Rita

32 French article

33 — acid (aqua fortis)

35 Deeply impressed

38 Toil away

39 One of the "Bridgerton" sons

40 Banish

41 Correct, as text

42 Was partisan

DOWN

1 Was defeated by

2 Film-maker Nora

3 Incite

4 Indian dress

5 Show for which Michael Chiklis got an Emmy

6 "— you!"

7 Lennon's love

8 European capital

9 Gofer's work

10 TV phenomenon of 1977

16 Big house

20 Show for which Gillian Anderson got an Emmy

21 TV's Sajak

24 Big snake

25 Person of promise

26 Flea market action

27 Ghoulish

28 Baltimore player

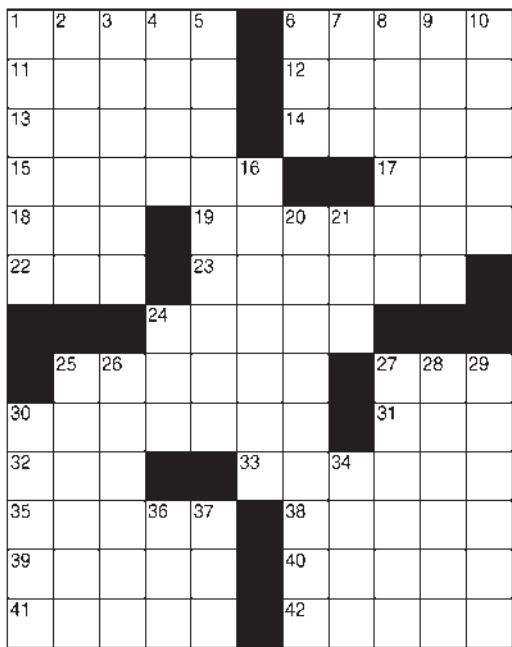
29 Holy

30 Ralph Kramden's wife

34 Judd Hirsch series

36 Take the prize

37 Finale



9-16

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-16

CRYPTOQUOTE

H Z D M E X T D J Y D X Y M E W D J E I

I P S X B K H X I E H I Q K N D Y D E Y D

H I C I M . — E D X S W D B J K Y Y D

H C Y I E

Cryptoquote: KEEP YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND AND KEEP REACHING FOR THE STARS. — CASEY KASEM

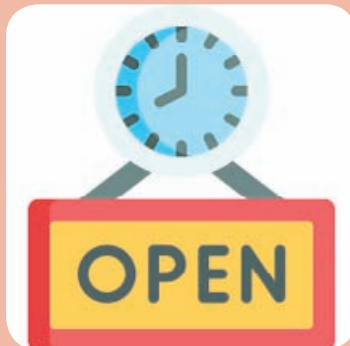


Cruise ship Schedule: Sep 02 - 18 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
TUE	02	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
TUE	09	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	C	1
WED	10	CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00	16.00	C	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	B	1
THU	11	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	17.00	C	1
TUE	16	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



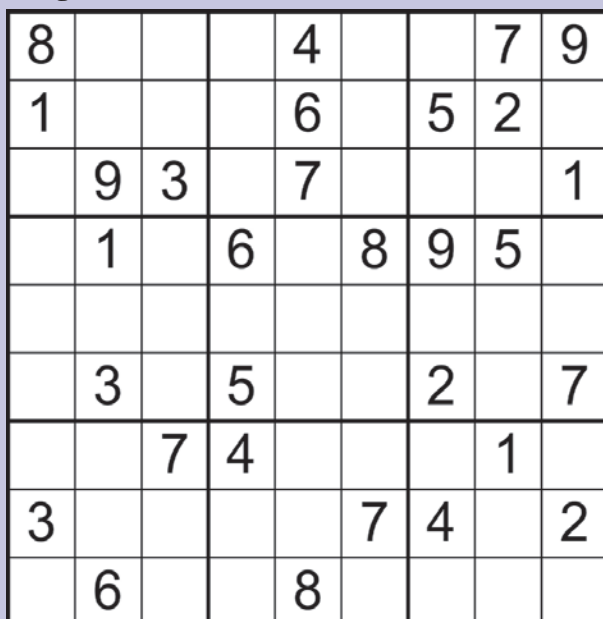
Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★★★

9/12

Answer to previous puzzle

1	5	6	7	4	2	3	8	9
3	2	8	6	1	9	4	5	7
4	9	7	8	5	3	6	1	2
6	8	4	9	7	5	1	2	3
2	1	3	4	8	6	9	7	5
9	7	5	3	2	1	8	4	6
5	3	1	2	9	8	7	6	4
8	4	9	5	6	7	2	3	1
7	6	2	1	3	4	5	9	8

Difficulty: ★★★

9/11

FTC launches inquiry into AI chatbots acting as companions and their effects on children

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**
AP Technology Writer

The Federal Trade Commission has launched an inquiry into several social media and artificial intelligence companies about the potential harms to children and teenagers who use their AI chatbots as companions.

The FTC said Thursday it has sent letters to Google parent Alphabet, Facebook and Instagram parent Meta Platforms, Snap, Character Technologies, ChatGPT maker OpenAI and xAI.

The FTC said it wants to understand what steps, if any, companies have taken to evaluate the safety of their chatbots when acting as companions, to limit the products' use by and potential negative effects on children and teens, and to apprise users and parents of the risks associated with the chatbots.

EDITOR'S NOTE This story includes discussion of suicide. If you or someone you know needs help, the national suicide and crisis lifeline in the U.S. is available by calling or texting 988.

The move comes as a growing number of kids use AI chatbots for everything from homework help to personal advice, emotional support and everyday decision-making. That's despite research on the harms of chatbots, which have been shown to give kids dangerous advice about topics such as drugs, alcohol and eating disorders. The mother of a teenage boy in Florida who killed himself after developing what she described as an emotionally and sexually abusive relationship with a chatbot has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Character.AI. And the parents of 16-year-old Adam Raine recently sued OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman, alleging that ChatGPT coached the California boy in planning and taking his own life earlier this year.

Character.AI said it is looking forward to "collaborat-



A girl uses her smartphone at home in Arizona on Friday, June 16, 2023.

Associated Press

ing with the FTC on this inquiry and providing insight on the consumer AI industry and the space's rapidly evolving technology."

"We have invested a tremendous amount of resources in Trust and Safety, especially for a startup. In the past year we've rolled out many substantive safety features, including an entirely new under-18 experience and a Parental Insights feature," the company said. "We have prominent disclaimers in every chat to remind users that a Character is not a real person and that everything a Character says should be treated as fiction."

Meta declined to comment on the inquiry and

Alphabet, Snap, OpenAI and X.AI did not immediately respond to messages for comment.

OpenAI and Meta earlier this month announced changes to how their chatbots respond to teenagers asking questions about suicide or showing signs of mental and emotional distress. OpenAI said it is rolling out new controls enabling parents to link their accounts to their teen's account.

Parents can choose which features to disable and "receive notifications when the system detects their teen is in a moment of acute distress," according to a company blog post that says the changes will go into effect this fall. □

LOOKING FOR

a short term

DUTCH VILLAGE

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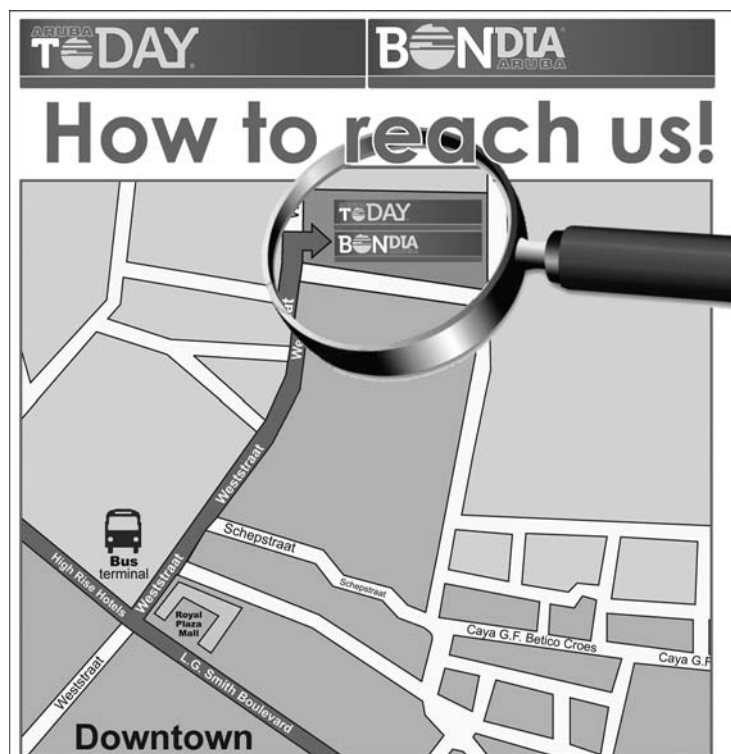
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HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Sta. Cruz: Tel. 585 8028

San Nicolas:

Centro Medico: Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional	Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club	Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Movie Review: The guys from Spinal Tap are back together, but is the reunion worth it?

By **MARK KENNEDY**
AP Entertainment Writer

In an early scene from "Spinal Tap II: The End Continues," the blisteringly obtuse Nigel Tufnel asks his wife a question after he and his bandmates have reunited after many years: "I don't know whether this was a good idea or not."

Fans may ask that very same question after an albeit mercifully short sequel hits theaters Friday from the mother of all rock mockumentaries, 1984's "This Is Spinal Tap." Forget about going to 11. This one barely registers at 4.

Despite some great starry cameos Paul McCartney's is easily the best "Spinal Tap II" leans into the old favorite bits too needily and is suffocated by the constantly looming presence of death, a downer. The improv-based comedy is forced and the laughs barely register. This is a movie only for die-hard Tappers.

The structure is the band reunion and countdown to a final concert by Spinal Tap, who we are told disbanded 15 years ago. They've not agreed to reform out of love, but contract. (They owe one more live set.) The venue is in New Orleans, because a Stormy Daniels appearance fell through. (That was probably really



This image released by Bleecker Street shows, back row from left, Chris Addison and Kerry Godliman, front row from left, Christopher Guest, Michael McKean, and Harry Shearer in a scene from "Spinal Tap II: The End Continues."

Associated Press

funny in 2017.) There are simmering intra-band tensions.

Rob Reiner who directed, starred and co-wrote the original with Christopher Guest, Michael McKean and Harry Shearer has once again directed the sequel, faithfully playing his role as filmmaker Marty DiBergi, complete with military baseball cap and a director's viewfinder around his neck. All the guys get screenwriting credit.

We learn where the trio

has landed after all these years one runs a cheese-and-guitar shop, another is the proprietor of a glue museum and a third writes soundtracks to podcasts and the hold music for phones.

Mortality is a constant theme, from the concert promoter who suggests one or two of the three members die onstage for good publicity "Would you settle for a coma?" one band member offers to the Shearer song "Rockin'

in the Urn" to a photo shoot in a cemetery to the whole thing ending in a hospital. Bones creak when they settle into chairs; paunches are hard to hide and reading glasses are necessary. This is a movie that celebrates those whose "candles cost more than the cake." Yum, dig in.

Death obviously stalks the search for a drummer, who has the habit of coming to an abrupt demise whenever they join. That was a kind of background joke in the

original, but here the comedians lean in too much, with cameos from reluctant suitors, including Metallica's Lars Ulrich, Red Hot Chili Peppers' Chad Smith and Questlove "You're legendary, but I don't want to die," he begs off all landing flat. Just including famous people isn't funny enough.

Valerie Franco eventually steps behind the drum kit, bringing a vitality and effervescence to a movie that sorely lacks it. But you'll cringe when Shearer's Derek Smalls hits on her, a woman four decades his junior. Shearer also at one point gets a vial stuck up his nose, a desperate bit of physical comedy that shouldn't have made the cut.

Guest's Tufnel tries cloyingly to recreate his "up to 11" from the original film when he and DiBergi discuss various guitar pedals one "is like someone singing through a duck" and he reveals a secret compartment of cheese in a guitar. It falls apart like brie on a warm day.

The high point is when McCartney happens to stop by the recording studio. He praises the band for their ability to rhyme "flesh tuxedo" with "pink torpedo" on the song "Big Bottom." □

Ella Langley, Megan Moroney, Lainey Wilson lead Country Music Association Awards noms with 6 each

By **The Associated Press**
NEW YORK (AP) — Ella Langley, Megan Moroney and Lainey Wilson lead the nominations for the 2025

Country Music Association Awards, with six nods each.

Joining Wilson in competing for the night's highest

honor CMA entertainer of the year will be Luke Combs, Cody Johnson, Chris Stapleton and Morgan Wallen, last year's winner in the category.

Also among top nominees announced Monday: Zach Top with five nods, and Riley Green and Johnson with four. Receiving three nods were Kristian Bush, Carson Chamberlain, Combs, Charlie Hand-some, Stapleton and Wallen. The 59th annual CMA Awards will be broadcast live from Nashville's Bridgestone Arena Nov. 19 on ABC, and the next day on Hulu. The prizes are nomi-

nated and voted on by members of the Country Music Association, which includes music executives, artists, publicists, songwriters and other industry professionals.

Langley's six nominations include single, song and music video of the year for "you look like you love me" with Riley Green. She's also nominated for new artist, female vocalist and musical event of the year ("Don't Mind If I Do"). Moroney gets nods in single, album, song, and music video of the year for her project "Am I Okay?" and its title track. She's also

nominated for female vocalist of the year and musical event of the year.

Lainey Wilson is nominated for entertainer of the year, single and song of the year ("4x4xU"), album of the year ("Whirlwind"), female vocalist of the year, and music video ("Somewhere Over Laredo").

Joining Moroney, Wilson, and Langley and Green for single of the year nods are Combs ("Ain't No Love In Oklahoma") and Top ("I Never Lie"). The nominees for new artist of the year are Langley, Shaboozey, Top, Tucker Wetmore and Stephen Wilson Jr. □



This combination of photos shows Ella Langley performing in Nashville, Tenn., on Feb. 28, 2024, left, Megan Moroney performing in New York on Dec. 31, 2024, center, and Lainey Wilson performing in Nashville, Tenn., on June 9, 2023.

Associated Press

After their Week 1 stunner, Josh Allen and the Bills are focused on handling the new-look Jets

By **DENNIS WASZAK Jr.**
AP Pro Football Writer
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)

— Josh Allen and the Buffalo Bills pulled off a stunner in their season opener.

So, what will they do for an encore?

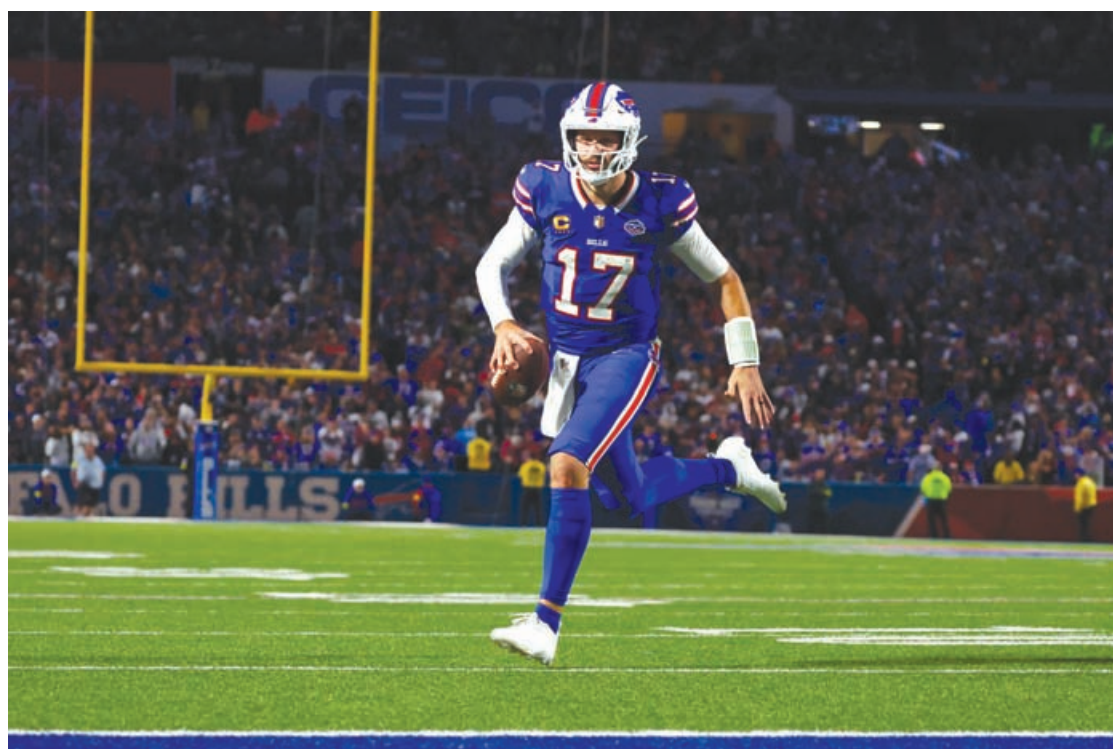
Well, they're taking on Justin Fields and the new-look New York Jets on Sunday at MetLife Stadium in an AFC East showdown a week after Allen led the Bills to three scores in the final four minutes of a 41-40 victory over the Baltimore Ravens.

"Yeah, well, I think I've said it in some of these interviews before of sometimes you need the ball to bounce your way, and it did on Sunday night," Allen said. "And just fortunate enough we can come away with that, with a win. Now, obviously, that has no bearing or impact on next week's game or this week's game, I should say, whatsoever."

"So, you know, we've got to wash it and forget about it and put our best foot forward this week."

The Bills (1-0) know better than to overlook an opponent, especially one such as the Jets (0-1), who gave Aaron Rodgers and the Pittsburgh Steelers fits and held two fourth-quarter leads before losing 34-32.

"I think the best way to describe me (Monday) morning is disappointed but highly, highly encouraged by things that I saw on



Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen (17) runs for a touchdown against the Baltimore Ravens during the second half of an NFL football game in Orchard Park, N.Y., Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025.

Associated Press

tape," said Aaron Glenn, who lost in his NFL head coaching debut.

One of the main reasons for the optimism was Fields, who was 16 of 22 for 218 yards and a touchdown a 33-yard strike to Garrett Wilson and ran 12 times for 48 yards and two other scores. "I've said this a number of times, I just want our quarterback to be efficient," Glenn said. "He went out and he did that."

Allen has made a career of doing that, too. And Glenn experienced that firsthand last season when he faced the Bills' star signal caller when he was Detroit's de-

fensive coordinator in a 48-42 loss to Buffalo.

"Man, he's tough, he's highly competitive," Glenn said, "and he allows this offense to never be out of a play."

The wow factor

Offensive coordinator Joe Brady has become accustomed to seeing Allen do remarkable things since joining the Bills as their quarterbacks coach four years ago.

But Allen's performance during Buffalo's comeback last Sunday took it to another level.

"Seeing what Josh was able to get to, and seeing the coverages and diagnosing

it, and knowing where the answers were and where to go with the clock going down, I mean, it was at an all-time high," Brady said after Allen finished with 394 yards passing, including 251 in the fourth quarter. "There was a lot of wows, that's for sure."

Ground-and-pound

The Jets made it clear throughout training camp they were going to rely heavily on their running game to power the offense. That was on full display against the Steelers when they had 182 yards rushing, led by Breece Hall's 107 on 19 carries.

"Something we've talked about throughout the spring and into training camp of what our DNA and what we want to look like on offense, I think that showed up," coordinator Tanner Engstrand said. "And that was positive for us in that first game."

New York could have a chance to roll up more yards on the ground against Buffalo, which gave up 238 yards rushing in the win over Baltimore.

Pulling rank

Deone Walker recalled being on the sideline when fellow rookie defensive tackle J. Sanders was preparing to take the field with Buffalo trailing Baltimore 40-32 with 3:50 left. That's when veteran Ed Oliver turned to Sanders and held him back.

Two snaps in, Oliver forced Derrick Henry's fumble a key turning point in helping the Bills overcome a 15-point deficit in the final four minutes.

"He was like, 'Uh-uh, I want to go in,' because he knew how crucial of a drive it was for us," Walker said of Oliver. "Now I see why."

Getting the boot

Cameron Johnston will make his debut as Buffalo's punter as the replacement for Brad Robbins, who was released after averaging 39.5 yards on four punts against Baltimore. □

NCAA investigates 13 former basketball players for sports betting violations

By **CLIFF BRUNT**
AP Sports Writer

The NCAA is investigating potential violations of sports betting rules involving 13 former men's basketball players who competed for six schools.

Cases include athletes formerly associated with Eastern Michigan, Temple, Arizona State, New Orleans, North Carolina A&T and Mississippi Valley. The schools are not under investigation or at risk of being penalized. The NCAA's integrity monitoring program and network of sources flagged text messages and direct messages on social media platforms and revealed unusual betting activities around regular-season games. The violations include student-athletes betting on and against their own

teams, sharing information with third parties for purposes of sports betting, manipulating scoring or outcomes and/or refusing to participate in the investigation.

"Arizona State University is aware of the NCAA investigation and outcome related to a former student-athlete who is no longer enrolled at ASU," the school said in a statement. "The university cooperated fully with all inquiries and was not implicated in any way."

The NCAA Committee on Infractions has resolved three similar cases, concluding that three men's basketball student-athletes who played for Fresno State and San Jose State violated the NCAA's rules against sports betting and manipulated game outcomes. □



A basketball with an NCAA logo rests on the rack prior to a first-round college basketball game in the NCAA Tournament between Iowa State and Michigan, Friday, March 21, 2025, in South Bend, Ind.

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When push comes to shove, expect Lyles and Bednarek back on the track for a rematch at worlds

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
AP National Writer

TOKYO (AP) — With a message-sending staredown, then the two-handed shove that followed, then the trash talk that came after that, Noah Lyles and Kenny Bednarek set the stage for what could be the best legit sprint rivalry track has seen in decades. Their next showdown: track and field world championships in Tokyo.

Whether it was merely a dose of WWE-like bluster or there's really something gnawing at two of the world's best sprinters, the mix-up after Lyles' 200-meter win at last month's U.S. championships delivered a ready-made storyline for a sport that struggles to capture the world's imagination the way it did in the Usain Bolt era and before. Worlds start Saturday when track unfolds its big tent in Tokyo for the first time since the COVID-tinged 2021 Olympics.

The highlight could very well be the Sept. 19 showdown expected in the 200-meter final between Lyles, the three-time defending world champion at that distance, and Bednarek, who has beaten a less-than-100% Lyles in the race at the last two Olympics.

Since that shove, Bednarek has said that he and Lyles have discussed things behind closed doors and "everything is sorted."



Kenny Bednarek pushes Noah Lyles after the men's 200-meter finals during the U.S. Championships athletics meet in Eugene, Ore., on Aug. 3, 2025.

But this quote from Bednarek, the 26-year-old, two-time Olympic silver medalist, just minutes after the race, has been reheated and rehashed aplenty since their tiff on Aug. 4: "Unsportsmanlike (expletive) and I don't deal with that," he said. "It's a respect factor. He's fresh. Last time we lined it up, I beat him, that's all I can say. Next time we line up, I'm going to win. That's all that matters."

Lyles and Bednarek are also among the favorites in the 100 meters, where Lyles is both the defending world and Olympic champion. Also in the mix in both races is Botswana's Letsile

Tebogo, the 200-meter Olympic champion who labeled Lyles as "arrogant" after beating him in Paris. "For me, I choose off the spotlight and then just my legs do the talking," Tebogo said this week during an appearance as a global ambassador for a World Athletics kids program. Jamaica's Kishane Thompson, who lost to Lyles by a scant .005 seconds at the Paris Games last year, is very much in the mix for this one, as well. He won in August -- the only time he, Lyles and Bednarek were on the track together this year -- and has the world's best time of 2025 at 9.75 seconds.

Another Jamaican, Oblique Seville, has beaten Lyles both times they've raced this year.

Sha'Carri returns, but not as a favorite, in the 100. As always, all eyes in the women's 100 will be on Sha'Carri Richardson, though she is a longshot to repeat as world champion. The favorite is Richardson's training partner, Melissa Jefferson-Wooden, who is undefeated at 100 meters this year, has the season-best time of 10.65 seconds and recently beat Richardson by .32 at a race in Brussels.

Olympic champion Julien Alfred is also a contender. Richardson made head-

lines at nationals when news emerged of her arrest on a domestic violence charge for an argument that escalated at the Seattle airport with her boyfriend, Christian Coleman.

Coleman did not pursue the case; Richardson expressed her remorse on social media. Meanwhile, in a year plagued by injury, she failed to qualify for the 200 meters, where she won a bronze medal at worlds in 2023.

Keeping the Faith

Virtually every time Faith Kipyegon steps on the track, she's aiming to set a record, or make history, or both. In June, the Kenyan fell six seconds short in her much-hyped Nike-backed attempt to become the first woman to break the 4-minute barrier in the mile. But less than two weeks later, she came back and broke her own record (for the second time) in the 1,500 meters -- the metric mile finishing in 3 minutes, 48.68 seconds at the Prefontaine Classic.

"It's a mindset," Kipyegon said. "If you have it set in your mind that, I want to achieve this goal and do this, then it's all about the mind. And also the preparation and the vision."

Kipyegon is eligible to defend her title in both the 1,500 and 5,000 meters in Tokyo. She has not raced at a distance longer than 3,000 meters this year. □